

THE STATUE'S PEDESTAL

A MEETING TO AROUSE A GENEROUS FEELING.

THE MASS-MEETING AT THE ACADEMY OF MUSIC TO-MORROW EVENING—AROUSING THE PEOPLE AS TO THE GREAT FRENCH GIFT—COMMITTEES TO BE SELECTED TO RAISE THE REQUIRED FUNDS.

The mass-meeting to be held in the Academy of Music to-morrow evening, under the auspices of the American committee on Bartholdi's colossal statue of "Liberty Enlightening the World," is intended to give to the public, by means of addresses by prominent gentlemen, some idea of the statue itself and of the necessity for the citizens of this country, and particularly of New-York, Brooklyn, and Jersey City, to come forward promptly and subscribe the \$200,000 required by the committee to secure the pedestal and provide for the erection of the figure when it reaches here next Summer. The committee wishes it to be distinctly understood that no subscriptions will be called for at the meeting, the sole object being to arouse public sentiment in regard to the matter, and thus pave the way for the work of securing the money, which will be done in a great measure by the special committees to be appointed at the meeting. Admission to the academy to-morrow evening can be had only by ticket, but tickets can be had gratis on application at the Fifth-Avenue and Windsor Hotels, Brentano's bookstore, No. 5 Union-square; Hudnut's pharmacy, in the *Herald* Building; Wilson's pharmacy, Broadway and Pine-street, and Chandler's music store, No. 172 Montague-street, Brooklyn.

Speaking of the statue which is to prove so great an ornament to our harbor, as well as a beacon light to mariners such as will be found nowhere else in the world, the Hon. William M. Evarts, Chairman of the American committee, who is to preside at the meeting to-morrow evening, said to a *Times* reporter: "During my last visit to Europe, in the Summer of 1881, I had repeated interviews with M. Laboulaye, the President of the Franco-American Union, which organized the enterprise, and with Bartholdi, the sculptor. I visited the workshops and saw the models of the massive statue as far as they had been completed, and its success, both as a work of art and a skillful piece of manufacture, as well as its completion at the time indicated by the sculptor, are matters about which no doubt whatever can be entertained. In the movement connected with the enterprise on this side of the Atlantic I have never found any difference of opinion, first, as to the splendor of the conception and the generosity of the gift on the part of the French people; second, as to the great and permanent interest which will attach to this monument to the true friendship of the two countries from the time of our Revolutionary struggle to the present day, standing as it will stand as a permanent structure in our harbor, and, third, as to the obligations of our citizens to contribute their half to the expenses of the completion of the structure, which is to be a permanent possession of our own. There are many indications that not only the opulent people of the country will contribute liberally to the fund for securing the pedestal, and setting up the massive figure, but that citizens of moderate means will contribute in proportion to their ability. The press has hitherto has been very kind in its notices on different occasions of the pending project, and we have derived substantial support in our work from this source, but the committee was unanimous in its opinion that a great public meeting for the introduction of the enterprise to the people of this City, and through the reports next morning to the citizens of the country, was the method most in accord with the habits of the American people for launching an enterprise which appeals so largely to our patriotic feelings and to our sentiment of appreciation of the sympathy of the French nation with our Government and our people. I regard the voluntary interest of persons in our own community in the project, which will induce them not only to send in their own subscriptions, but to appeal to those around them for aid in the work, as the most effective method that can be adopted for the collection of the money required, and this interest it is the purpose of the committee to awaken, if possible, by the meeting of Tuesday night. It will be an interesting meeting, at which fine music will be performed and addresses made that will have no savor of dryness. We hope with these attractions, if the weather is fine, to have a large audience, and we feel sure that if we secure the audience we shall succeed in arousing the public interest in the statue that we desire.

"Our committee," continued Mr. Evarts, "has been working very steadily since it was first organized. We have had a great many meetings, and done a great deal of work of which the public knows nothing, which, nevertheless, has tended steadily to the end which we sought, the raising of the money required to erect the statue. The press has stirred us up once or twice for not opening our subscription-books and beginning the work of collection sooner. We could not reasonably do this until the time for the completion of the figure was definitely fixed and was approximately near at hand. That time has come now, and with it the time for practical work. In a wealthy city like this it seems to me that there should be no more difficulty in collecting \$200,000 for such an object in 60 days than there would be in collecting it in so many weeks. Of course, we hope and expect to get some of our fund outside the large cities lying directly in our harbor. The statue was paid for by contributions from the whole French people, and it is presented to this entire Nation. Still, when it reaches here, it is to come to our locality. It is to ornament this harbor, and it is a rather delicate matter to ask the whole country to pay the greater part of the expense of erecting such an ornament. We feel that the great bulk of the money must be raised right here in our midst, although we hope and believe that the patriotic impulse of the whole country will be so aroused that we shall receive subscriptions to a greater or less extent from other States. After we have launched our enterprise by means of the meeting on Tuesday night, we hope to do a great deal with the theatres, many of which have already volunteered benefits for the fund. From the ladies, too, we expect to gain substantial aid, either in the form of a grand ball or a fair. We have no doubt as to the success of our efforts as soon as the project is fully understood by the public, and we mean to make it understood in our meeting."

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